Telephone Calls from Unknown Persons in Jabalpur

5402. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that abusing/obscene telephone calls from unwanted/ unknown persons in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh causing harassment to the families;

(b) whether any measures have been devised to check such obscene/abusing calls;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the precautionary measures proposed to be taken to avoid such obscene calls?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Telephone numbers getting abusing/ obscene calls/malicious call are kept under observations on receipt of written complaints. Notice is served to the party from whose telephone such malicious calls are made. Telephone connection is disconnected in case such calls are made despite notice being served. The case is also given to the Police if the request is from the Police Department. Telecom Authorities in Jabalpur have been advised to attend such complaints expeditiously.

[Translation]

Urdu Programmes

5403. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Urdu, Urdu Programmes and Urdu staff are being given a raw deal in AIR and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the conditions of Urdu, Urdu programmes and Urdu staff in AIR and Doordarshan ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Improvement in the quality of programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan is a continuing process.

[English]

Requirement of Telecom Equipments in Sangrur

5404. SARDAR SURJEET SINGH BARNALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some requirements are urgently required by the Telecommunication Department in District Sangrur to improve the telecommunication system;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from Members of Parliament in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir. There is no emergency situation requiring Telecom equipment urgently. However as a part of development programme, equipment is required.

(b) To meet the existing demands, 3K Main C-DOT MAX-I is under installation at Sangrur Town. Plans have been drawn up for expansion of Barnala, Malerkotla exchanges and other places in Sangrur District.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Suspension of Officers in VSN

5405. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of officers suspended by the Chairman, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited during 1995, 1996 (till date);

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Officers belonging to SCs/STs are unnecessarily being harassed by the above Chairman in particular; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against him ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Two officers i.e. one General Manager and the other Sr. General Manager were suspended by Chairman, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited during 1995, 1996 (till date).

(b) The General Manager was placed under deemed suspension for being in Police custody for more than 48 hours. The Sr. G.M. was suspended for allegedly misleading the VSNL Board by giving false information.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.